

Remarks:

Applicant is canceling original claims 1-26, without prejudice. Applicant also is adding new claims 27 and 28, which previously were presented in the parent application. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. This amendment is believed to be submitted before the mailing of the first Office Action on the merits, and entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicant's representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity. Applicant believes that no fees are due as a result of this preliminary amendment. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and the fees determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-4377

Respectfully submitted,

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